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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application Serial No. ....09/607,786  
Confirmation No. ....1171  
Filing Date ..... Jun 30, 2000  
Inventorship .....Jianfeng Gao et al.  
Applicant..... Microsoft Corporation  
Group Art Unit .....2654  
Examiner ..... SPOONER, LAMONT M  
Attorney's Docket No. .... MS1-0441US  
Title: A System and Method for Joint Optimization of Language Model  
Performance and Size

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED (MAILED) 02/28/2005****AS PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT FOR RCE**

To: Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
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S/N 09/607,786

Response to Final Office Action Dated 2/28/2005

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

This Amendment under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 (After Final) is a response to the Final Office Action dated February 28, 2005 with a three month shortened statutory period for reply, and serves as a preliminary amendment for an RCE.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**A Listing of the Claims** begins on page 4 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 13 of this paper.